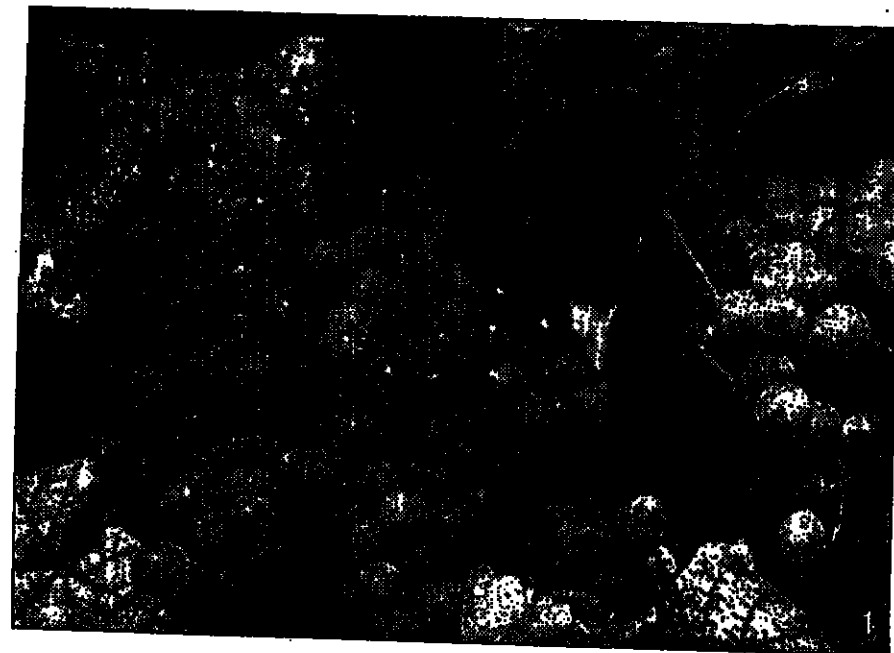


Routes to tour in Germany

The German Wine Route



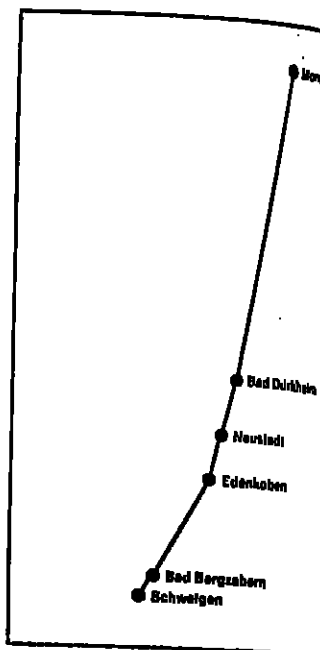
German roads will get you there — to the Palatinate woods, for instance, where 2,000 years ago Roman legionaries were already growing wine. Each vine yields up to three litres of various kinds of wine, such as Riesling, Sylvaner, Müller-Thurgau, Scheurebe or Gewürztraminer. Grapes are gathered in the autumn but the season never ends. Palatinate people are always ready to throw a party, and wine always holds pride of place, generating *Gemütlichkeit* and good cheer. As at the annual Bad Dürkheim Wurstmarkt, or sausage market, the Deldeshelm goat auction and the election of the German Wine Queen in Neustadt. Stay the night in wine-growing villages, taste the wines and become a connoisseur.

Visit Germany and let the Wine Route be your guide.



- 1 Grapes on the vine
- 2 Dorrenbach
- 3 St Martin
- 4 Deldeshelm
- 5 Wachenheim

DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS EV.
Beethovenstrasse 69, D-6000 Frankfurt/M.



The German Tribune

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Kohl finds Europe a hard row to hoe

provisions for Mediterranean agriculture.

The aim behind this pledge is to dispel the reservations France, Italy and Greece have about allowing Spain and Portugal to join the European Community.

At the Brussels EEC summit in March the Chancellor was so keen on harmony that he still felt he sensed cordiality, mutual understanding and a common sense of will.

But they failed to stand up to closer scrutiny in the cold, clear light of reality. A variety of national interests and though the result might be that farm domestic considerations have gained greater importance, both in Bonn and elsewhere.

How else could the Bonn Cabinet have instructed Agriculture Minister Ignaz Kiechle to aim, at the Luxembourg farm price talkathon, at a three-per-cent increase for German farmers?

Bonn must surely know how much better-off German farmers are than their counterparts in other EEC countries and that the Common Agricultural Policy will force the Finance Minister this year, or next at the latest, to rifle the taxpayer's pockets yet again.

A cold chill must creep down the Chancellor's back when he calls to mind the June Stuttgart EEC summit.

As current chairman of the Ten he preferred not to upset the general harmony of the March summit by risking disputes on decisions.

So an unprecedented number of decisions are due to be reached at Stuttgart on topics ranging from youth unem-

ployment, free trade within the EEC, acid rain, coal and steel and the Mediterranean package to the reorientation of EEC finances. At the end of Bonn's spell in the chair a clear step forward was to have been taken, whereas a wide range of people are now worried the Stuttgart summit might turn out to be a fiasco. They include German diplomats at the EEC who are struggling through the preliminaries and both



British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl at 10 Downing Street. Mrs Thatcher later described the talks as "the best we've had". (Photo: AP)

Chancellor at Downing Street

EEC finance was one of the main issues when Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl met British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London.

But little was agreed; instead, the clouds of another unpleasant budget dispute gathered on the horizon.

Chancellor Kohl flew back, disappointed on one point at least: he had wanted more support for moves towards European integration.

But Mrs Thatcher made it clear that she expects Europe to take smaller, more pragmatic steps in this direction.

There was solid agreement on Ostpolitik and defence matters and on solidarity with the Americans.

At the Stuttgart EEC summit next month, Mrs Thatcher would like to see a settlement on the dispute over EEC finances. Full steam ahead into the European future would not be possible until Britain had made sure it would pay less into the EEC kitty.

Yet both leaders demonstrated how the most intensive political friendship can be maintained without any real headway being made on major issues. She described the talks as "the best we've had."

Kohl in London created the impression of being an extraordinarily personable politician, serious yet kind-hearted.

Alongside Britain's Iron Lady he cannot have failed to make an impression. In the long run it could prove a substantial contribution toward European unity.

Rainer Bonhorst

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 23 April 1983)

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penelope soft-drink policy punts le luring youth to alcohol, accuses MP

For Bonn's obliging behaviour by giving on a four- to five-per-cent cut in 13-per-cent offset levy on farm imports from other EEC countries.

Levy is imposed on farm imports from Germany to offset the effect of currency revaluations on farm prices and incomes.

Others want it to be reduced even further. Guarantees are lower this year in many than in 1982.

The background, behind all this, is a pledge by Herr Kohl to make generous changes to EEC

The political message behind the Beirut bomb blast

The bomb blast at the US embassy in Beirut was not just a killer: it accomplished a major political mission.

It reminded the United States what political forces are at large in the Lebanon and that a settlement there is impossible unless their interests are taken into account.

The blast is also fresh proof for those who either fail to appreciate or try to ignore how unreliable and fragile any agreement between Israel and Lebanon really is.

Six months ago a similar bomb blast that shook the Phalange headquarters in the heart of Beirut brought to an abrupt end high-flown Israeli hopes, expectations and aspirations.

The Lebanese President-elect, Bashir Gemayel, was killed. His place may have been taken by his brother Amin, but an entirely different political note was sounded.

The shock waves of the latest explo-

sion were immediately registered by sensitive political seismographs in Jerusalem.

President Reagan was at pains to make a personal statement that the blast had strengthened US determination to arrive at a political settlement in Lebanon and the Middle East.

But the first reactions behind the scenes were not long in coming. Talks between Israeli, Lebanese and US delegates were cancelled.

At the same time the White House has stepped up the tempo of its bid to negotiate a settlement. It had already sensed with frustration that prospects of a settlement in the Lebanon were being talked away in view of the substantial remaining differences between Beirut and Jerusalem.

Now the sole remaining point at issue is Major Haddad, the commander of

Continued on page 15

Success.

whether it is the national interest to deport a convicted foreigner or make him serve his sentence. *Dieter von König*

Most complaints are about extremely high fines for speeding (up to R1,000)

The crisis of the cities was to become a crisis of the SPD.

~~This would result in a loss of credibi-~~

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
für Deutschland, 22 April 1983)

They are complete translations of the original
no way abridged nor editorially reprinted

...up an image that adds up to a mark of Christian Democratic municipal politics.

Thus, the argument goes, it must try to win over those radically liberal voters

This would result in a loss of credibi-

Gunter Hofmann
Die Zeit, 15 April 1988

In all correspondence please quote the above number which appears on the subject line.

The SPD position in Baden-Württemberg is even weaker. In Stuttgart

Continued on page 10

■ HANOVER TRADE FAIR

Computer technology steals the show in a competitive field

Computer technology was the big success at the Hanover Trade Fair. In cold business terms, nothing else touched it.

But interest overall was high and the question now is: will the great interest shown at the world's largest capital goods fair be reflected in orders?

Data processing and communications technology is benefitting from the rationalisation of office work. The aim is to do two things at the same time: cut back on wage costs and cope with ever-increasing amounts of data.

Equipment is getting smaller all the time, meaning that it is becoming more and more practicable for office use.

Sales in other branches of industry were well behind. One spokesman for the fair said he knew of only one really large order outside the communications technology field: a DM1.2m order placed with a German plant and equipment supplier.

Business in the plant and mechanical and electrical engineering, the pillars of the capital goods industry, would have to pick up considerably in the next few months if interest at Hanover were to be reflected in orders.

But there is no sign so far that German industry as a whole is prepared to

invest more this year than it did in 1982, which was a poor investment year.

It is almost impossible to assess the many specialised "fairs within a fair" that, after a long and arduous restructuring process, now make up the Hanover Fair.

There were great differences in all sectors; the broad sector of precision mechanics, for example, where efforts to streamline production processes still proceed.

The same applies to propulsion and conveyor technology.

In the machine tools and welding sectors, there was plenty of interest in the exhibits but there was no marked improvement in business.

In steel there were some signs of better business. But this was primarily due to the need to restock inventories.

The Hanover Fair reflected the growing complexity of modern technology. Systems that transcend specific branches of industry are gaining ground constantly, as shown by the increasingly intensive use of electronics in mechanical engineering.

This also makes it increasingly difficult for the potential buyer seeking solutions to his particular problems to obtain a clear picture.

All this has forced the Hanover Fair

to restructure and depart from the previous strict division comprising branches of industry in favour of a comprehensive alternative.

The so-called microtronics section in Hanover is a telling example that marks the beginning of this process.

Microtronics is the interplay of various sectors of industry such as mechanical and electrical engineering, office and communications technology, energy technology and conveyor and transport technology. The organisers' aim here was to demonstrate the complex applications of the exhibits to a potential buyer.

There were no technical sensations at the fair but there were many technical novelties that were further developments of existing equipment.

Some examples: the world's first compact neon light housed in a light bulb rather than in a tube. The bulb fits any normal socket.

The 12-watt version of the Centralux light corresponds to a conventional 60-watt. There is also a 16-watt version. Both are ignited by a special electronic starter. It will take a few months before the new light bulbs made by Osram GmbH become available to the public.

There was a portable electricity plant

made specially for artisans and market gardeners. The operating generator is surprisingly simple: a four-stroke engine is started by a petrol. Once going, it switches to a 25 kilowatt unit, which will run for three hours on litres of diesel. (Makers: GmbH, Pfullingen.)

People on mountain farms or in hunting lodges will benefit from a portable hydroelectric plant that has no foundations nor any lifting stream bed.

It is simply put straight into a stream. The plant provides a 220 volts at 50 Hz with the help of an electronic regulator. The company, and the plant causes no noise whatsoever. (Österreichisches Hungerszentrum, Seibersdorf Vienna.)

There was also a mobile light power generator that can be used as an automobile engine. The generator is a source of energy for all tools in areas that have no power supply. (Goddard Enterprises, Australia.)

Various novelties were on show in the communications sector. A portable device makes it possible to transmit telegrams directly by radio. The device is the size of a small calculator. The owner is alerted by a buzzing sound to a message of up to 160 units of a small window of the device. (GmbH, Taunusstein.)

Helmut Maleski and Wolfgang (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1983)

Germany's biggest supplier in Augsburg, a subsidiary of the Werke Karlsruhe. The largest supplier is the Swedish firm of the biggest in the world is the Unimation Inc.

Some 140 makers now share a market in the Western industrial with ten per cent of these companies counting for 80 per cent of sales.

Competition is tough and winners in Hall 13 admit that they sell below cost.

So anybody who wants to win this game needs not only know but also plenty of cash.

As a result, many small makers disappear from the market. Industry becomes a real money game. In fact, even large corporations run out of steam, as shown by Westinghouse takeover of the firm.

The reasons for the use of robots are widely known. Japan uses them to replace labour according to Daimler-Benz head of production Werner Niefer, Europe is interested in more flexibility in production.

Fixed welding production line is a rapid adaptation to changing conditions impossible. But programmable robots are used, a model could be manufactured in the same production line.

While a fixed production line produces about 1,000 cars a year for itself, the use of robots reduces the number of units needed to 400.

This greatly reduces the investment in a product that cannot be sold in the necessary numbers.

So what robots replace is not human labour but an obsolete technology: Henry Ford's assembly line. (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1983)

autische Bank has set aside DM1.6bn in its 1982 balance sheet for bad debts. Dresdner Bank has set aside DM850m and Commerzbank DM700m.

These amounts are also intended to cover bad debts that have not yet reflected themselves.

These figures for risk provision are because bank business, as in all other business years, was good last year. A few post-war years can match no foundations nor any lifting stream bed.

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■ FINANCE

Bank lending risks: it's a whole new ball game



Euromarkets are the only explanation for the fact that Third World countries were able to get so deep into debt in the first place. The Euromarkets are operated by all institutions engaged in international banking — not only through their national parent companies but also and above all through their branches and subsidiaries in the Euromarkets where they benefit from cost advantages.

In these places, such as Luxembourg, London, the New York Free Trade Zone, the Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Singapore and Bahrain, the business volume has increased by an average of 25 per cent a year over the past ten years. And the bank supervision authorities in the home countries of the parent banks knew nothing about it.

Because of the slump at home, many German banks lost their traditional credit customers after 1974. They sought and found new customers in the East Bloc and the Third World.

But many of the East Bloc deals that are worrying them today were not entirely voluntary. The last loans given to Poland — which should never have been granted, as the banks know today — were extended under the pressure of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's gentle but firm persuasion.

But the loans given to oil-importing developing countries were granted without any outside pressures.

The banks used the opportunity the Euromarkets presented after the 1973 oil price shock.

The Opec price hikes played havoc with the current account balances of developing and threshold countries. Internationally operating banks jumped into the breach with credits. The funding of the loans was made possible through recycled Opec surpluses — and recycling that was much praised at the time.

German banks had no pang of conscience at the time because there were sound reasons for the financial credits they extended. These loans did not only make profits for the banks but also boosted the economy as a whole.

After all, was it not only reasonable for Germany, an oil-importing nation, to do everything in its power to pay some of the oil bill by boosting exports?

The fact is that the bank loans to developing threshold and East Bloc countries ensured their ability to buy German goods.

But the clear conscience did not last. The introduction of roll-over loans posed problems.

This, too, was described by Abs at the time: normally, a banker will give a loan only if he knows what the money will be used for and where the repayments will come from.

Abs underscored at the time that this was different on Euromarkets. When Euromarket loans fall due, they are repaid with money obtained through new credits. The last borrower gets his credit on a long-term basis but his changing creditors, whose commitment is short-

term, roll over the refinancing interest to the borrower.

This eliminates any risk due to changing interest rates for the lending banks because the borrower bears the burden of rising interest rates.

What happened was that, in 1979, the year of the second oil shock, the countries where creditor banks are located embarked on an anti-inflationary course. And since this meant higher interest rates, the high interest was passed on to the borrowers (including all debts) as part of the roll-over procedure.

The borrowers' interest burden thus grew considerably and the rising dollar exchange rate increased their nominal volume of debt.

This sort of development could only have worked without repercussions had there been high growth rates, high world market prices for raw materials and open markets in the industrial world.

But the recession put pressure on world market prices and promoted protectionism in the industrial nations.

The permanent rescheduling candidates (Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, Zaire) were joined by such threshold countries as Brazil and even some oil-exporting nations like Mexico, Iran and Nigeria. They were no longer able to service principal and interest repayments on schedule. Rescheduling applications mounted as a result.

This has made country risks an explosive problem for the banks. Now there is talk of more stringent banking supervision even in the United States. In Germany, the Bonn government, the Bank Supervision Authority and the Bundesbank must stand by with liquid funds to bail out banks should they find themselves in trouble.

There are three major questions under discussion today:

● How to limit country risk to manageable proportions.

● How to treat country risks in bank balance sheets.

● How to prevent foreign subsidiaries of German banks from remaining a vulnerable spot for Germany's banking industry because they are not subject to German banking laws and are therefore outside the control of the German Bank Supervision Authority.

The Bonn government, the Bank Supervision Authority and the Bundesbank have kept aloof from the first question. Nobody has been prepared to suggest a quantitative limitation of country risks by restricting the total lending volume to a country.

It was the banks themselves who came up with an answer by adopting the principle that the credit volume may not exceed 18 times the nation's own assets.

The parent banks have always abided by this principle while their subsidiaries have not.

The lack of market clarity has prevented risks being reduced in time. The banks were unaware that their international competitors throughout the world acted by the same principle and that this led to a dangerous accumulation of balance of payments credits given to the same country by various banks."

(Head of the Bank Supervision Authority, Inge Lore Bähr).

Germany is also rather liberal in the handling of country risks in balance sheets. America and Britain would like to see the Bonn government press the banks to arrive at a uniform method of balance sheet adjustments for accounts receivable from abroad.

The prevailing view in Britain and America is that adjustments are unnecessary if rescheduling operations are assisted by the IMF, which would indicate the likelihood that a country will get back on its feet.

In Germany, there are no prescribed minimum quotas for balance sheet adjustments. The amount is decided by the board, which acts in its own right though sometimes urged by the Bundesbank and the Bank Supervision Authority.

Manfred Meler-Preschany, Dresdner Bank board member in charge of foreign business: "It would be wrong to lump all countries together. For some countries, rescheduling operations are not enough. They have to have the durations of the rescheduled loans extended."

As a result, adjustments in the balance sheet depend on each individual case and on the bank's ability to make an adjustment, i.e. its profits.

For example, balance sheet analysts say that Deutsche Bank has made a full adjustment for its Polish credits in 1982 by allowing DM500m for emergencies.

The third question as to making foreign subsidiaries subject to German banking laws is about to be settled through EEC regulations.

Community guidelines that would make the foreign subsidiaries subject to

Now there is talk of even more stringent banking supervision, even in the USA

the parent company's national banking laws have already been drafted and are ready for adoption.

As a result, German banking laws should include the obligation for banks to present the Bank Supervision Authority with consolidated balance sheets that would make it possible to check whether parent and subsidiaries combined have exceeded the permissible credit volume which is based on a bank's own capital.

Since the necessary amendment of the Banking Act has been put aside by the Bonn government due to pressing other business, the Bank Supervision Authority depends on a gentlemen's agreement.

Under the agreement, 31 banks have volunteered to permit some such checks. This was a tough decision for many of them because it means that they either have to reduce their volume of business to stay within the limits set by their own capital or have to seek new capital.

But what is a chief bank executive to do when he is unable to raise new capital at a particular time? This has prompted Wolfgang Seipp, chief executive of Commerzbank, to ask whether it is not incompatible with the board's duties under company law voluntarily to enter into a gentlemen's agreement that could have a negative effect on earnings.

Who knows whether German bankers would have ventured into international business had they known the dangers that lay ahead?

Rudolf Heik (Die Zeit, 15 April 1983)

Robots: the miracle-or-monster argument rages on

"see" and "feel" the materials they work on.

As a result, they know exactly how to assemble, weld, measure or align the individual part.

The main power behind the development of robots is the auto industry which now "employs" 60 per cent of these iron workers.

But the growing precision of robots could bring about a change. The most sophisticated models can turn the tiniest of screws with a precision of one-tenth of a millimetre and can thus be used in precision assembly work.

There are now 3,500 robots working in West Germany, 1,200 more than a year ago. Sweden is the world leader in the use of robots, outstripping Japan.

The two countries next in line, the USA and Germany, use roughly the same number of robots relative to their size.

Since human labour is predominant in the assembly of dishwashers, radios, typewriters and TV sets, experts estimate that there is a vast scope for robot expansion in these sectors. As a result, the advance of robots in these industries will be faster than elsewhere.

It is still unknown to what extent robots supplant human labour.

The Institute for Production Technology and Automation of the Stuttgart-based Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft estimates that half of today's 1.2 million assembly line jobs in this country are endangered.

But forecasts on the robots' effects on jobs are full of uncertainties, except for the obvious fact that rationalisation and

automation boil down to replacing people by machines.

But experience in the auto industry, the biggest user of robots, seems to disprove this.

In 1981, Germany's auto-makers employed 660,000 people, 78,000 more than ten years earlier. The number of autos made in Germany did not rise but decline in that period: from about four million in 1971 to about 3.9 million in 1981.

Last December, Opel chief executive Ferdinand Piecher told the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany that growth did not "manifest itself in the number of units but in more sophisticated and more complex technology and hence the higher value of the vehicles produced."

Daimler-Benz boosted its labour force by 50 per cent in the past five years, using the extra labour only for the manufacture of extras. The pollution and noise abatement regulations in various countries also require additional staff, both in the production and the development sectors.

By now, the iron workers who do the welding, spraying, stacking of crankshafts and turning of sheetmetal are an integral part of the auto industry.

The capital goods industry has meanwhile adjusted to a growing market, at least in the medium term. But the big manufacturers in this field are meeting with ever stiffer competition as even medium-sized companies in the plant and machinery field supply their machinery with electronic brains.

The explosiveness of the risk is enormous... Mexico was a foretaste

banks, the Bank for International Settlements, the IMF and the World Bank. The foretaste of this risk was provided August 1982 when Mexico, much to everybody's surprise, had to ask for a rescheduling of its loans.

The US Administration, the Bank for International Settlements and a number of central banks had not acted quickly, the explosion would have produced about 1,000 cars a year for itself, the use of robots reduces the number of units needed to 400.

This greatly reduces the investment in a product that cannot be sold in the necessary numbers.

So what robots replace is not human labour but an obsolete technology: Henry Ford's assembly line. (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1983)

The time is ripe for the European Community to take another look at peace and security problems, says a joint report by the heads of the five major European research institutes on international affairs.

It should make a greater contribution to security policy, both at the political level and at the operational level.

Military self-reliance and a decoupling from the United States is ruled out if for no other reason than cost: defence spending would rise to domestically unacceptable levels.

The Federal Republic of Germany was represented by the research unit of the Foreign Affairs Association.

The wide-ranging report goes into what is likely to be lost if the pressure of protectionism breaks down the core of the European Community, the Common Market.

It also says that the European Monetary System should be treated as one of the key means of controlling the current economic crisis instead of being regarded merely as a part of European integration.

And it says that jargon in the EEC institutions has in a few years reached a peak of incomprehensibility.

Europe is in a flat spin, say the authors, and the only way to cope is to be prepared to apply the opposite lock, not to keep cool, calm and detached.

They have joined forces in sounding a note of alarm.

"Profound unrest and urgent anxiety prompt this report" are the opening words.

"If nothing is done we will face the disintegration of the most important European achievements since the end of the Second World War."

These words were written even before the experts could have known that alienation was in the offing between Bonn and Paris.

What they at present still diagnose as a tragedy could well turn out to be something even worse, with European countries having no-one to blame but themselves.

Thirty years after the Second World War finally deprived them of their status as the centre of the civilised world they face the prospect of total eclipse.

The report, dramatically entitled Progress or Decline: The EEC's Decision, cannot be expected to herald a change. Bad habits are too deeply ingrained.

After all, not even direct elections to the European Assembly in 1980 succeeded in making Europe more familiar to the Europeans.

Should there be growing lack of interest next time round, in 1984, meaning an even poorer turnout, it will merely provide a further alibi for national egoism.

In effect, egoism of this kind fritters away both the individual and the common benefit that might otherwise be derived.

It is thus much to the authors' credit that they refrain from flogging the dead horse of European ideology; it is an ideology no-one is interested in hearing more about.

They make no appeal to idealism of whatever kind. They merely list everything that runs the risk of being forfeited if the core of the European Community, the Common Market, breaks down under pressure from protectionism.

These likely losses include the following:

- the trade-promoting effect of the EEC customs union;
- the quantitative advantage that has led to growing specialisation and competitiveness in the world market;

PERSPECTIVE

Time for Europe to stand back and look at itself

This article was written by Munich political scientist Professor Paul Noack.

● the increasing efficiency in sectors previously protected;

● the alleviation of the effect of de facto national monopolies and the availability of a larger supply of goods at lower prices (always excluding the agricultural market);

● and the advantages of increasing direct investment within member-countries.

The authors suggest that change is possible within the framework of existing structures.

They are well aware that it would be irresponsible to wait for a fundamental restructuring of the mechanisms of European integration.

That, after all, would be no more than an attempt to avoid what would then soon be inevitable.

The authors thus support the status quo. They feel existing structures are worth protecting.

Their assessment of world affairs is also conservative.

Deterrence, for example, is felt to be the only way of keeping the peace. President Reagan's versions of the future are not given a mention.

If anything, even fiercer competition between the blocs is expected. Tension is not expected to relax.

Ties with the United States, with all the contradictions they entail, are projected into the decades ahead. Europe is not even as much as considered as being on a par with the superpowers.

Sometimes the report is a little contrite; as when all that is said about the detente policy of the 1970s is that Western Europe fell foul of its own hopes and wishful thinking in respect of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

It would have been better if more realistic options in the early-1970s had been outlined, even though at present the assessment of detente, whatever it may have meant to individual countries, has emerged as the main bone of contention with the United States.

The term "conservative" is not intended to imply backward in any way. There is little point in analysing the world as it might be rather than as it is.

That is why this implicitly conservative outlook has its advantages, and its finer points, come to light when it is a matter of framing proposals.

They range from reciprocal recognition of academic qualifications to extending the term of office of the chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The authors are sceptical about fundamental changes in European structures, and that is what makes their point that nothing new is needed carry conviction.

It would, they argue, be enough for the European Community countries to recall the joint and successful principles of the EEC's early years.

One of their major demands is for the European Monetary System no longer to be understood merely as part and parcel of European integration.

It must, they say, be treated as what it really is, one of the key means of controlling the current economic crisis.

A greater Europeanisation of major

industries is considered necessary to ensure competitiveness on a world scale.

The authors are not alone in wondering why cooperation between European and, say, American firms ought in the long run to be any easier than cooperation between companies in member-countries of the European Community.

The fact of course remains that politicians could not behave toward the EEC in the way they do if effective ties with community institutions had been established over the past 20 years.

But they haven't and the media for one are reminded of their responsibility:

"The portrayal of Community processes in the national media and public opinion is fatal for any development of common interest or prospect of compromise."

"Individual Ministers are made out merely to be national champions sent into the ring to take arms against obdurate opponents and poorly-drafted proposals."

It is gratifying to note that it is also made clear that Community institutions themselves have failed to establish a place in European hearts:

"Community jargon has in a few years reached a peak of incomprehensibility for which centuries have been necessary in some countries."

Despite the multi-dimensional character of the attribution of guilt this catchphrased homily is centred on an aspect that is usually ignored when the situation in Europe is at issue.

It is the security policy sector. Security is given a modern definition in that economic security is felt to be just as important as military security.

The overriding background fact is stated as follows: "Of all major trading partners only Japan is more dependent than the Community is on the international exchange of goods and services."

This is one of the causes of tension in relations with the United States, which has priorities other than those of North-South ties.

Although the European Community is an economic community, albeit an incomplete one, disputes with both the United States and the Soviet Union occur mainly, if not exclusively, in the security policy sector.

This leads to the basic tenet of the entire report, which reads as follows:

"We are of the view that for the European Community the time is ripe for a reappraisal of peace and security problems."

"The Community must gain clarity about what is at stake and evolve appropriate new responsibilities in view of European unions and institutions within the framework of shared Western viewpoints."

This, as it were, is the only aspect on which a departure is made from the considered status quo approach.

It is lent added weight by the fact that the European Community, in the wake of southward expansion (which the authors advocate), is in the process of becoming virtually identical with the European part of Nato.

In two sequences of thought the need for an explicitly European security policy is discussed.

The first is based on the fact that

ideas of decoupling are strength in the United States. There is little doubt that any such decoupling would be to the detriment of American interests and might lead to a gigantic displacement of the balance of power to the disadvantage of the United States (and, naturally, Europe as the victim).

"History shows that nations are not immune to the temptation of committing dreadful acts, and why should the States be immune to a repetition of what others have made before?"

The conclusion reached is not, by any means, a military self-reliance without the States.

That, it is argued, is out of the question because, if for no other reason, it would entail an increase in spending that was domestically insupportable.

The authors also set aside any resurrection of the European Community.

But Europe must, they say, make a greater contribution toward policy both at the political and the operational sector.

That is the only way in which it can hold its own in critical situations.

The experts likewise keep their feet firmly on the ground when it comes to Europe's nuclear contribution. They do not go out of their depth on nuclear forces and the like.

What they propose and discuss in the foreseeable future are consultations in which Britain and other nuclear powers can include their European partners in target planning, as they already do in Nato's Nuclear Planning Group.

What the report has to say is not least, conservative in the mainly positive sense of the term.

The authors want nothing to recall the almost forgotten reason on which European integration was based.

But that alone will be of little use to governments usually failing the time in which to read papers kind.

And even if they do find it will not find time in which to read their electorates of the need for forms outlined.

It is always easier to go in for self-righteousness and to blame at the others' door.

Offering advice in politics has been a thankless task, especially matters of world affairs, and will continue to be so.

That is why it is so important for to resume the discussion of European problems. It is the only way in which European paralysis can be ended after having descended on such public.

This paralysis can be blamed on the governments, Community institutions and organs of public opinion. The main reason why such stupidities occur that we are deluged to view as the normal state of affairs.

Specialist in outlook though what has been reviewed may be, very telling comparison was drawn in respect of one state of affairs.

"In the Community," the report says, "what happens is much the same as in an old Spanish inn. The quality of the meal depends on what the guests are prepared to contribute toward the communal repast."

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt)

TRANSPORT

Plans to go ahead with lead-free fuel trial

Munich and West Berlin are about to go ahead with experimental lead-free petrol projects.

Munich, the plan will involve local motor vehicles. The city is buying German manufacturers about 40 cars made for export to the United States and Japan, which both have lead-free fuel.

West Berlin, the city is trying a similar experiment in conjunction with the D.M.C., a motorists' organisation based in Munich.

Lead is used to boost the octane rating of petrol. But it has long been suspected of affecting the intelligence of drivers and causing behavioural problems.

The British government has just agreed a Royal Commission report that should be phased out of petrol.

Munich, which has taken the lead in this country, is the cleanest of the West German cities, according to the Federal Environment Agency.

It has converted most of its coal- and oil-fired heating installations into the cleaner natural gas and piped heating. But at street level, the air Munich people breathe is no cleaner than anywhere else.

Ediger Schweikl, municipal environmental affairs officer, estimates that in Munich put out an annual 10,000 tonnes of carbon monoxide, 254,000 tonnes of nitrous oxides and 14,000 tonnes of unburnt hydrocarbons.

In Germany as a whole motor vehicles are estimated to account for about 60 per cent of the carbon monoxide output, 50 per cent of the hydrocarbon output and 35 per cent of the nitrous oxide output.

The motor-car is to blame for more than 90 per cent of atmospheric pollution in the streets of German cities.

A brochure on motoring and the environment published by the Environmental Protection Agency, West Berlin, paints a grim picture of the effects of carbon monoxide.

It is said to block oxygen intake into the blood thereby leading to a shortage of oxygen in the body tissue.

This can cause headaches, giddiness, sickness, buzzing in the ears, difficulty in breathing, unconsciousness and even death.

Sufferers from cardiac and circulatory complaints in particular are in danger when pollution peaks during the rush hour or smog.

A point not made in the brochure but now considered to be an established fact is that sulphur dioxide is not alone in being to blame for tree deaths; nitrous oxides from car exhausts also contribute.

Environmental protection at the fountainhead is how Herr Kiesel views the proposal. He is convinced it will reduce by about 90 per cent the count of a variety of toxins in car exhaust fumes. The lead count will naturally be reduced to zero.

In both the USA and Japan motor fuel has been lead-free since 1975, and only in combination with lead-free fuel can a special catalyst and the lambda probe be used to virtually eliminate harmful exhaust fumes.

More expensive

Buying suitable vehicles was the least of Herr Schweikl's problems. A tougher one was ensuring supplies of lead-free fuel throughout the trial period.

He was referred by the Environmental Protection Agency to Aral's Gelsenkirchen refinery, where limited quantities of lead-free fuel have been produced for some time to meet the requirements of German motor manufacturers.

The special fuel will be available at a municipal garage where private motorists may later be entitled to fill up.

Initially, Munich will have to invest extra cash in the experiment. Cars made to comply with US and Japanese regulations cost about 15 per cent more than conventional models.

And they need to be reconverted to meet a number of domestic requirements.

The lead-free fuel itself it will be about 10 pfennigs a litre more expensive than conventional fuel, while the special cars' fuel consumption will be a little higher than average.

But Herr Schweikl is convinced the extra expense will not be too much. The

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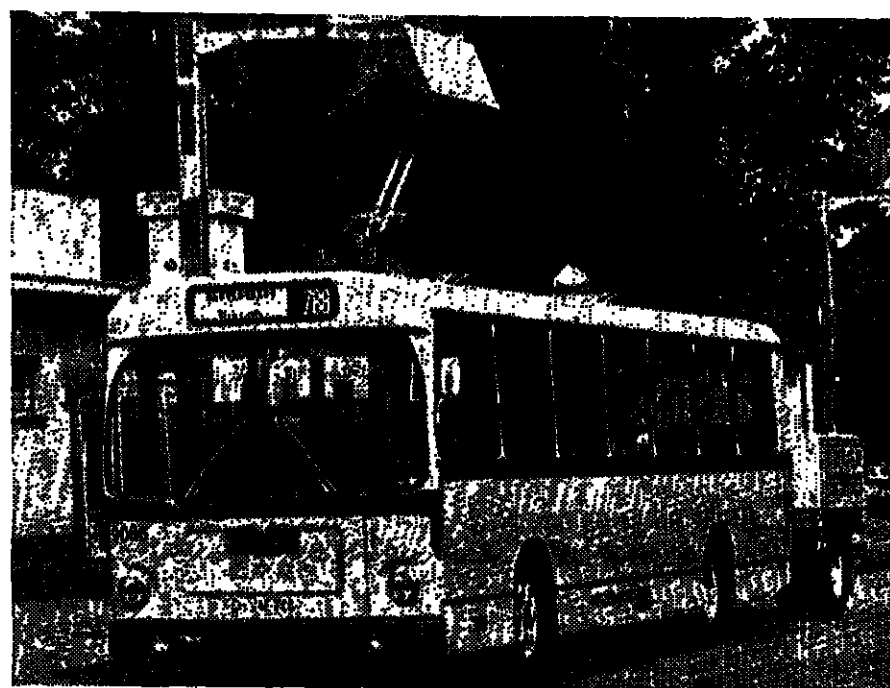
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Battery bus

Düsseldorf's transport authority is experimenting with this new battery powered bus. It uses a roof-top collector similar to the old trolley bus arm to recharge at the terminus. (Photo: dpa)

Cities and conurbations have invested heavily in public transport and traffic schemes such as pedestrian precincts, one-way systems and linked traffic lights to keep to a minimum the harmful effects of car exhausts on residents.

Herr Schweikl dismisses all these schemes as largely ineffective. He plans to strike at the root cause of the trouble.

Munich, if the plans Burgomaster Kiesel has already approved are endorsed by the city council, will be the first city in the Federal Republic of Germany in which motorists will have to use lead-free fuel.

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special cars will dispense with metallic finishes (a saving of roughly DM1,000 a time, he says) and other extras.

The life-span of their exhausts should be twice that of conventional vehicles. Spark plugs should need replacing less often too. So running costs seem sure to be lower.

Three years ago Herr Schweikl was Press spokesman at the Bavarian Environmental Affairs Ministry and a keen campaigner for clean car exhausts.

In those days the city's present experiment would have been unthinkable. Motor manufacturers took a dim view of such demands.

They argued that German engines relied on leaded fuel, whereas no comparison could be drawn with models designed for export to the United States and Japan.

Besides, what were needed were cars that used less fuel. Herr Schweikl's colleagues at the Ministry were by no means alone in being convinced that lead-free fuel was an unlikely prospect.

Oddly enough, it was a German motor manufacturer who gave him the cue for resurrecting the plans. Lead-free fuel, a BMW spokesman said, was no longer a problem for German engines.

"Technically," says Dietmar Domröse of the Munich motor manufacturers, "cars could be converted quickly."

Herr Schweikl now plans to take the industry at its word and launch a long-term experiment. The motor industry is not unhappy to fall in with his plans either.

They are a convenient opportunity of slipping out of the line of fire in which power utilities find themselves in connection with the tree death debate.

"Now," says Herr Domröse cheerfully, "the ball is in the oil industry's court." Oil refineries have argued in the past that manufacturers were not yet ready for lead-free fuel.

The ball is also in Bonn Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann's court. He is shortly due to confer with the Interior Ministers of the Länder and, a few days later, with motor and oil industry managers on ways and means of changing over to unleaded fuel.

Bonn is still working on the assumption that there will need to be a European solution, or an arrangement covering the entire Common Market.

Herr Schweikl is sceptical. He has a feeling it will be all words and no action.

Christian Schneider
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 April 1983)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Waste recycling sits in a great dump of problems

Waste recycling is not the universal environmental cure-all it was once thought.

There were once great hopes of saving energy and raw materials, of economizing and preventing environmental damage, but they have given way to a more sceptical view.

Professor Alfons Buukens of Brussels University told a conference at the Protestant Church Academy in Loccum, near Hanover, he knew of not a single really satisfactory recycling facility.

None worked in accordance with the requirements of modern environmental legislation and ran at a profit at the same time.

The conversion of techniques and combinations of processes that seemed sensible in theory into practical arrangements that worked had proved more difficult than expected.

The differences in composition of domestic waste supplied presented problems time and again, while the material recycled did not sell well.

Attempts to solve secondary and tertiary environmental problems had everywhere led to unexpectedly heavy expenditure.

Installations built so far in the Federal Republic of Germany are no exception; they have failed so far to fulfill the hopes placed in them.

The recycling plant in Neuss, near Düsseldorf, works only by being attached to a waste dump, and only a small proportion of the waste is actually recycled.

The Ruhr recycling centre, designed to handle 425,000 tonnes of domestic and industrial waste a year, is admitted by its manager, Wolf-Dieter Sondermann, to be in effect little more than an incinerator.

Banking on centralisation and high technology, he says, has led to capital

investment and annual follow-up costs that impose a heavy burden on the taxpayer.

They also have the effect of blocking other means of treating waste of years. Experts likewise claim the Tübingen pilot project, which is heavily subsidised by the Bonn government, doesn't work despite having cost a fortune.

Maybe it was the spirit of the Loccum Academy that prompted speakers to be so frank and outspoken.

Over 150 people attended the conference on recycling and problems of processing (and opportunities of reducing or avoiding) domestic waste.

They were members of civic protest groups, industrial representatives, waste processors and local government officials.

Thilo Koch of the Heidelberg Institute of Energy and Environmental Research said the 1980s and 1990s could herald a rethink on integrated treatment of waste.

All waste channels might be brought together for central disposal or processing. But the rethink could possibly result in a differential approach.

The change-over might be to separation of the individual components of domestic waste and to separate recycling. But would it happen?

Pilot projects involving separate collection of categories of waste are certainly being given greater attention.

One, in Konstanz, is being carried out by Dornier, a private company interested in refuse disposal. Another, in a Frankfurt suburb, is being undertaken by the local authority refuse collection department.

The aim behind separate collection is to persuade householders to sort waste and put different categories in different dustbins.

In Frankfurt paper and glass are being collected separately in this way. Elsewhere it is hoped to collect plastic, metal, textiles and organic waste separately.

Contrary to what many experts were expecting, householders are cooperating. Motivated by environmental awareness, they are going to the trouble of putting separate waste in separate bins. In this way the volume of unsorted

domestic garbage can be cut by at least 30 per cent, it is now generally estimated.

But such experiments did not attempt to deal with the root cause, an environmentalist reminded the conference; they merely tinkered with the symptoms.

The packaging industry and food retailers came under fire for forcing more and more packaging on the consumer. It made up roughly half the volume of domestic waste, said Jürgen Orlich of the Environmental Protection Agency.

He singled out cans of soft drink as an example of the disparity between content and packaging.

The can cost roughly 25 pfennigs, the contents (sugar, water and aromatic agents) five pfennigs at most. So consumers paid mainly for the packaging.

Reusable bottles (the ones with a deposit on them) still account for 75 per cent of the trade, but there is a marked trend toward the non-returnable variety.

Herr Orlich said the market was on the brink of having to decide for one system or the other. At some point between 75 and 50 per cent it was no longer profitable to supply both reusable and disposable packaging.

The result would probably be a drastic increase in the number of waste bottles and cans. Separating them from other categories of domestic waste was only one solution.

Another would be to insist on reusable bottles that were returned to the manufacturer, and priority ought surely to be given to preventing waste, with recycling being a secondary consideration.

A conference working party drew up a combined programme of waste prevention and recycling against the background of a harmonious understanding of man and nature and of the finite nature of resources.

It called for a ban on the manufacture of substances that were harmful to the environment (or for the use of "closed" systems), for compulsory declaration of contents and for differential waste disposal levies (a packaging tax).

Local authorities were called on to collect various categories of waste separately, including organic kitchen waste, and to recycle them.

Consumers were to avoid superfluous packaging, boycotting manufacturers if need be, and to make greater use of fresh goods.

Helmut Hildebrandt

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 April 1983)

Continued from page 5

cess. Sales of the imported models (the Jetta, the Passat/Santana, the Scirocco and the VW bus) were up nearly a third in the first quarter of this year.

Yet the Santana, for instance, is competing with the much rounder Cadillac, and a Santana turbo diesel costs nearly \$4,000 more than a fully-fledged Cadillac.

"Among imported models the strategy of withdrawing to parts of the market where price war is not being waged seems to work."

But Volkswagen of America aims to corner five per cent of the US market by the mid-1980s, and that calls for more than a retreat to market nooks and crannies.

What, for that matter, is to become of the Rabbit, which as recently as two years ago looked capable of cornering an entire warren?

Is there a nook big enough for an annual output of 230,000 cars? Competition is sure to grow even fiercer. US production of the Honda Accord is soon to go into full swing.

At the end of next year Toyota and GM plan to start manufacturing a competitor to the Rabbit in California. An extra 200,000 compacts a year will then crowd an already overcrowded market.

In dollars and cents the Rabbit cannot hold its own. The price was out by \$625 last year without boosting sales. The Japanese are in a much healthier position because they would still be making a profit if they slashed prices by 20 per cent.

Not so Volkswagen. A US Senate committee estimates that the company is losing \$800 on every car it makes in the United States.

On every car VW imports, in contrast, it is said to earn \$2,000, and these figures have yet to be disproved.

Bonn to clamp down on poison disposal

The Bonn Interior Ministry drafted a Bill to provide for controls of dangerous waste disposal through the Federal Republic.

The step is in response to the surrounding 41 missing drums of waste from Seveso in northern Italy. Günter Hartkopf, state secretary at the Interior Ministry, says a permit to provide for transit permit processing is mainly needed because the GDR has a special waste dump two years ago in Schönberg, about nine miles from Berlin.

Transit of special waste has assumed any importance for the Republic since the establishment of Schönberg dump.

The Bill works on the assumption that toxic waste ought to be disposed in the country of origin, Dr. Hartkopf says.

Anyone who wants to transport waste through the Federal Republic in future require a permit for every Land, or Federal state, through which the shipment passes.

Permits would only be issued to restrictions. They need assistance, be issued if environmental damage is likely to occur in the Republic as a result of unsafe waste disposal in a neighbouring country.

Shipments of toxic waste will no longer be allowed to cross into Germany at any crossing point to be restricted to crossings near border where substances can be stored.

The Bill would entitle the government to stipulate by decree border crossing points were to be restricted.

The Länder, Dr. Hartkopf says, favour of intensifying the provisions of the Waste Disposal Act as proposed by his Ministry.

The Interior Minister would be empowered to intervene in procedures for international shipments particularly dangerous substances.

In cases where overriding considerations were involved he would be entitled to issue instructions to local authorities.

Gerd Schürmann

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 21 April 1983)

THE CINEMA

Schumann film brings two worlds together

Films about musicians may be popular with cinemagoers. But they tend to be among serious music-lovers.

How often have we seen poor, long-haired Chopin on the screen! There have also been films without number about Schubert, while Mozart's life has been serialised on TV.

The silver screen has even staked its claim on the life of Beethoven. Fritz Schramm starred as Beethoven back in the days of silent movies.

Mathias Wiemann in *Trübsal* plays Schumann several decades ago. Composers' life stories are evidently felt to be good screen material.

The genius whose tale is told is always a world-famous figure whose life is a fact. It can be told as it is in the country of origin, Dr. Hartkopf says.

All that is left to do to provide an effective screen contrast is to underscore the difference between the pleasure and the trials and the ups and downs of the genius.

His music is so heaven-sent; his everyday life so brings one down to earth. Screenplay-writers have wrung every ounce of appeal out of this heart-breaking contrast.

Films about musicians are often a success, but they are also, in a doubtful quantity.

Frühlingsinfonie (Spring Symphony) directed by Peter Schamoni, is the latest. It deals with Robert Schumann, the composer of the *Symphony No. 1*.

It gets off to a furious start. Russian pianist Gidon Kremer in the guise of Schumann plays one of his wild capricious pieces to a Biedermeyer audience.

It is a breathtaking performance, and

in the audience we see the young Schumann, played by Herbert Grönemeyer, with a frank and open expression.

He is carried away by the fast and furious rhythms and decides there and then to become the Paganini of the piano.

Schamoni selects 10 heaven-sent, sad years of the composer's life. He sets out to learn the ropes from Friedrich Wieck, the hard-nosed businessman father of infant prodigy Clara Wieck.

But he has to give up any idea of becoming a pianist. A hand injury rules out a career at the keys. So he goes in for composing instead.

He falls in love with Wieck's gifted daughter, but her pigheaded father wants at any cost to end their liaison. They eventually go to court to get married.

Her father, who has invested all his live in his superb pianist daughter, loses the case and the young couple are finally able to marry.

But the happy end is clouded. Schamoni hints that something is bound to go wrong. Two geniuses cannot possibly get on with each other.

A human tragedy is clearly in the offing. The film ends on a distinctly subdued note.

It is yet another film that relies on scraps of music by an acknowledged genius. These popular items are visually underlined by Saxon Biedermeyer period pieces.

The storyline is a tale of flight and separation, of heartbreak and revolt, of cruelty on the part of an unbending father, of young love and its disconsolate fight for the cause.

Schamoni keeps to the known facts. In precise detail he outlines the narrow confines of Schumann's Saxon surroundings.

At times he seems over-fussy in the exact directions he gives to his young



Nastassja Kinski and Rolf Hoppe as daughter and father Wieck in 'Frühlingsinfonie'.

cast. But much of the film is fine, emotional and carries conviction.

Other scenes are less successful. They include the one in which the young Mendelssohn, played by André Heller, is introduced.

Heller plays the part as that of an angry young man. In the process he narrowly avoids transforming the entire film into pure farce.

Nastassja Kinski is strangely rigid and somewhat unromantic as Clara Wieck. She only succeeds at times in credibly playing the part of a childlike genius at the piano.

But she does make the tragedy and buffeting suffered by Clara comprehensible.

Rolf Hoppe, the amazing character actor from Dresden, clearly commands the stage as Robert Wieck, the cruel and unbending father.

In *Mephisto* Hoppe emerged from a minor role to virtually dominate the action. In *Frühlingsinfonie* he is likewise a key figure, even though he is deserted and alone at the end.

He imbues his difficult part with a decided note of tragedy, combining dotting yet calculating paternal love with a dash of evil genius.

Friedrich Luft
(Die Welt, 16 April 1983)

Old discarded Bogart take gives Germans a lesson in editing



Rigid communication rituals... Blick aus dem harmonischen Gefängnis.

(Photo: © Werner Nekes)

city of shadows as the daylight slowly changes.

Nekes, who at 40 is almost a grand old man of a predominantly youthful genre, features half-naked young people in rigid communication rituals dancing through the gates.

It is a work of technical perfection and exciting aestheticism he has submitted to the North Rhine-Westphalian Film Bureau.

In the quest for a 'new subjectivity' a number of documentary filmmakers entered striking material. It included Michael Lentz' *Verländert*.

It tells the tale of a young Turkish woman and the problems she has with emancipation and integration.

She fails to live up to the expectations placed in her either at home or at work, where her instructor sounds a note of resignation.

Too much is expected of her; that is why this film for once was too short; it only hints at the many difficulties that arise.

Two other very personal films carried conviction at Oberhausen. They were Kirsten Jepsen's *Kaiser, König, Bettelmann*, the sensitively-told tale of a Berlin street, and *Eigentlich lebe ich ganz normal*, made by Bochum trio Hartmut

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